

# ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2021



**"LOVE ONE ANOTHER,  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"**

(John 15:12)



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This booklet has been designed to prepare you for life in the Sixth Form at St. Michael's. Each Head of Department has prepared a page which includes recommended reading on and around the subject and/or useful websites. In each subject you will have a task to complete before the beginning of term in September.

Enjoy exploring the links and embracing your chosen A Level subjects

We all look forward to seeing you in September.

**B. Roberts**

**Head of Sixth Form**

A-LEVELS  
PREPARATIONS

## Art



To begin the A Level Art course we want you to demonstrate your creativity, inventiveness and skills. Please undertake the following tasks which we hope you will enjoy doing. Bring your work to the first Art lesson when we see you in school. Present your work on A3 or A2 size paper, this can be in a book or separate sheets.

### **Task 1: Collecting things.**

Many artists are great collectors and use these often random objects to inspire their art practice. Watch the short film here about **Rachel Whiteread** who explains her collecting habits.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/rachel-whiteread-drawings>

**Collect 10-20 small different objects of one colour.**

These objects must be:

- Small enough so they can all fit into a shoe box.
  - Not living objects or things which might decay.
- (You can make more than one collection if you like)

Reference other artists who collect:

**Peter Blake** [https://www.waddingtoncustot.com/exhibitions/51/works/artworks\\_standalone10146/](https://www.waddingtoncustot.com/exhibitions/51/works/artworks_standalone10146/)

**Mark Dion** <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/dion-tate-thames-dig-t07669>

**Song Dong** <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2012/feb/14/song-dong-waste-not-in-pictures>

### **Task2: Photograph your Collection.**

- Lay your collection out in an orderly arrangement on a flat neutral surface.
- Take 10-12 different photographs of them. Re-arrange the objects to create different compositions with them.
- Take your photographs using natural light whenever possible. No flash and take photos during day light- turn off any indoor lighting.
- Print out in colour and/or black and white. Arrange over 2 pages in an A3 sketchbook or on an A2 page

### **Task 3: Select one of your objects and site it in 20 different locations around your home.**

Take photographs of your object in these 20 locations. (Once isolation is over this could be in your neighbourhood.)

Print out A7 in size and present over 2 x A3 pages. (Over 2 pages in an A3 sketchbook or an A2 page)

Top Tips:

- Vary your view/angle of the object.
- Be distant or close up to it.
- Consider how you can change your perception of the object by how you position it.
- If you can vary lighting to create more dramatic effects.

### **Task 4: Make a drawing in black and white to show the 3D qualities of one of your objects.**

<https://www.artistsandillustrators.co.uk/how-to/drawing/1913/how-to-draw-a-still-life-in-mixed-media>

Follow the link above to help guide your drawing.

We are conscious that you may not have all the media listed, you will have to adapt using what you have at home. Any soft pencil will do. 2B and upwards.

Make your drawing fill an A3 or A2 in size.

### **Task 5: Make a painting in colour to show one of the other your objects in your collection.**

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Set a new object from your collection on a table in front of you. If possible on a white piece of paper to create a neutral surface.

Have natural light if possible from one side.

Make your painting A3 or A2 in size.

Using your acrylic paints (other paints can be used if you do not have acrylics) start with thin washes of colour to create base colours. Then start to use paint more thickly. Use a range of brush sizes.

Reference one of these painters looking at their paintings of objects, to help you. Lisa Milroy, Euan Uglow, Giorgio Morandi, Wayne Theibaud.

### **Task 6: Make a Joseph Cornell Inspired 'shadow box' including some of your collected objects.**

Joseph Cornell was an American artist remembered for his Surrealist assemblage works housed in shallow wooden boxes. Cornell produced works which incorporated found objects arranged in narrative dioramas, featuring Victorian-era dolls, photographs, bottles, and other small trinkets.

Look at the link below to help you to gain more understanding of his work.

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/joseph-cornell>

*Materials you might need to help to make your work* -Glue, scissors, Sellotape.

Collect papers including magazines (you can cut images from to use), maps, any papers you might have collected from your recycling box, also useful old stamps, bottle and jar top, tin foil.

Things for props might include cocktail sticks, spent matches, old wine bottle corks.

If you have an old shoe box an old drawer or something similar this would be great to work in. Or you could make your own box to work within to create your Cornell shadow box.

Select 2 of Joseph Cornell's shadow boxes to inspire your work. Print out images of them and stick into your sketch book. Write a paragraph for each describing the scene and the atmosphere created.

### **Now make your own 'shadow box'.**

- Base your composition one of Cornell's pieces. Position your objects and collage materials carefully.
- Consider what you might add to make you composition more magical and playful like his work.
- Consider leaving space within your box too.
- Document your shadow box by photographing it and printing images to go in your sketchbook or A3 paper.

## Biology



The AQA A Level course is designed to follow on from double or triple Science GCSE. This means that you do not need to read any specific books before you start the A level course. However, we do strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with the websites listed in the guidance that follows. We also urge that you order Biological Sciences Review and we will give you details on how to do this shortly after you start your course. Essential preparation Before you start you should download the specification from the AQA website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/specification-at-a-glance>

Specimen materials can also be downloaded from this site:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/assessment-resources>

Every student will need the following text book: AQA Biology 2nd Edition by Glenn & Susan Toole - Oxford publishing.

### Wider reading and preparation

We suggest that you to visit both the Natural History Museum and the Wellcome Collection before you start. Entrance to these Scientific Institutions is free for students. If possible also visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew or at Wakehurst Place (RH17 6TN) to find out about their role in conservation. A visit to the MRC National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill is also highly recommended.

### The Wellcome Trust

Website <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk>

There are interesting publications to download and you can sign up for future free publications. The Wellcome Collection itself is at 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE

### Natural History Museum

For full details of free events and lectures explore their website <http://www.nhm.ac.uk>

### The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

<http://www.kew.org> for full details

### The MRC National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill

<http://www.nimr.mrc.ac.uk>

### Pre-course suggested preparation

It would be advisable to prepare for the A-Level course via online learning tools such as Seneca Learning (<https://www.senecalearning.com/>). Find the "AQA A-Level Biology" course and attempt the first few exercises and topics as a way of easing yourself into the A-Level specification. Specifics from this site will be used during the school year, so setting up your own (free) account is recommended at this stage.

### Pre-course assignment

We would like you to read a book/article in an area related to Biology and prepare a 3 minute Powerpoint (or prezi) presentation summarising what you read and what your thoughts on it are. Please be imaginative with your choice of topic. You will be presenting these during your first few lessons in Biology, so ensure that

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they are ready to be presented on your first lesson. Ensure to include where you sourced the information in your presentation.

### Suggested reading for this presentation:

- The Blind Watchmaker (Richard Dawkins) ISBN-10: 0141026162
- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat (Oliver Sacks) ISBN-10: 0330523627
- The Epigenetics Revolution (Nessa Carey) ISBN-10: 1848313470
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Rebecca Skloot) ISBN-10: 0330533444
- Your Inner Fish: The amazing discovery of our 375-million-year-old ancestor (Niel Shubin) ISBN-10: 0141027584
- Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters (Matt Ridley) ISBN-10: 185702835X
- Power, Sex, Suicide: Mitochondria & the meaning of Life (Nick Lane) ISBN-10: 0199205647
- New Scientist Magazine
- Biological Sciences Review

## Chemistry



The Edexcel A Level Chemistry course is designed to be stimulating, enjoyable and challenging for the students who successfully completed double or triple Science GCSE. Success with A level chemistry will prepare you for a future in chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, chemical engineering, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, medicine and dentistry.

### **Recommended reading for Chemistry students:**

**A Short History of Nearly Everything** by Bill Bryson (Witty, engaging, a truly impressive book)

### **1. Text book required in September**

Every students will need the following textbook:

Edexcel Chemistry 1 (includes AS level) Authors: Graham Curtis, Andrew Hunt, Graham Hill  
ISBN 978-1-4718-0746-6 Publisher: Hodder Education

You also can download specification from Edexcel website with the link:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Chemistry/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A\\_level\\_Chemistry\\_2015\\_Specification.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Chemistry/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A_level_Chemistry_2015_Specification.pdf)

If you are curious with A Level exam paper, you also could download Specimen materials from Edexcel website with the link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Chemistry/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Chemistry-2015-SAMs.pdf>

### **2. Pre-course Assignment**

As you know, there is a significant jump from GCSE to A level. To help you prepare for your A Level studies you should do some 'bridging' work before September. Please complete the questions in the booklet with the link: <https://www.colfox.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Chemistry-A-Level-Summer-Work-2016-1.pdf>

You can check your answers with the answers section at the end of the booklet.

### **3. Useful website:**

**Royal Society of Chemistry** <https://edu.rsc.org/student>

There are wide range of inspiring and interactive resources highlight the interconnectivity and relevance of chemistry in the modern world.



## **Economics**

### **Why Do You Want to Study Economics?**

Most students have never studied this subject prior to A Level so it is really important to answer this obvious question. Economics is about how our society provides us with most of the things which we want but it also explains why we can't have everything that we want or even need. You won't be interested in this as an academic subject unless you are already interested in current affairs. You **must** watch the news and read good quality newspapers regularly as the subject is concerned with explaining recent and current economic events. Usually economists are also interested in politics in order to understand how decisions are made. You should be interested in answering questions like the following examples:

Why are some countries much richer than others? Why is there unemployment?

What can the government do to tackle inflation and unemployment? Do we need economic growth and how can we achieve it?

### **Read at least one of the following:**

So far so good. You should have decided that you are now interested in this subject. Now you need to prepare some of the background knowledge that will help you get off to a flying start once you start your A level. Select one of the following books to read:

1. Everlasting Light Bulbs - John Kay
2. The Undercover Economist or The logic of life -Tim Harford
3. The State We're In - Will Hutton
4. Freakonomics - Steven D Levitt & Stephen J Dubner

### **You are now ready to start studying Economics at St. Michael's.**

To prepare, write an essay entitled: "How is Economics relevant to everyday life?"

You must use a variety of sources, which must be listed at the bottom of your essay. The essay should be 750 words (with a 50 word tolerance).

### **You will hand in your essay to your teacher in your first lesson. No excuses!**

We hope you enjoy Economics and very much look forward to working with you.

## English Literature

A course booklet is issued to all Year 12 students at the commencement of the course in September; this is filled with useful information about the course content, approaches to reading and writing at A Level, enrichment within English, and the study of literature in general.

We expect you to take your academic work seriously. You must attend all your lessons and participate in study days and conferences, as well as keep up-to-date with notes, research and homework tasks, including strict NEA deadlines. Provided you study well and keep up with the work, you should enjoy your course immensely and be successful.

Teachers have chosen exciting and stimulating texts for you to develop your reading skills that will prepare you for undergraduate study, especially should you intend to read English at University. In addition, as part of your NEA, you will have the opportunity to select text/s of your choice for an independent study in Year 13. In preparation for your A Level course, we have provided an example of our general reading list for 6th formers, as well more specialised lists in preparation for Love through the Ages (Paper 1, Year 12) and Texts in Shared Contexts: World War One and its Aftermath (Paper 2, Year 13).

**We expect all our A Level students to have read some of the texts listed below (significant texts are highlighted in bold) and to come prepared in September to feedback/discuss aspects of summer reading.**

<u>Love through the Ages</u>	<u>General</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Persuasion</i>, Jane Austen</li><li>• <i>Jane Eyre</i>, Charlotte Brontë</li><li>• <b><i>Wuthering Heights</i>, Emily Brontë</b></li><li>• <i>The Awakening</i>, Kate Chopin</li><li>• <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>, Thomas Hardy</li><li>• <b><i>The Great Gatsby</i>, F Scott Fitzgerald</b></li><li>• <i>A Room with a View</i>, E M Forster</li><li>• <i>The Go-Between</i>, L P Hartley</li><li>• <i>Rebecca</i>, Daphne Du Maurier</li><li>• <i>Atonement</i>, Ian McEwan</li><li>• <b><i>Othello</i>, William Shakespeare</b></li><li>• <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>, William Shakespeare</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Chinua Achebe</li><li>• <i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie</li><li>• <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>, Maya Angelou</li><li>• <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>, Margaret Atwood</li><li>• <i>The Secret Scripture</i>, Sebastain Barry</li><li>• <i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i>, Louis de Bernières</li><li>• <i>The Heart's Invisible Furies</i>, John Boyne</li><li>• <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>, Khaled Hosseini</li><li>• <i>A Doll's House</i>, Henrik Ibsen</li><li>• <i>The Remains of the Day</i>, Kazuo Ishiguro</li><li>• <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, Harper Lee</li><li>• <i>Song of Achilles</i>, Madeline Miller</li><li>• <i>Beloved</i>, Toni Morrison</li><li>• <i>The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox</i>, Maggie O'Farrell</li><li>• <i>The Bell Jar</i>, Sylvia Plath</li></ul>
<p><u>World War One and its Aftermath</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>A Long Long Way</i>, Sebastian Barry</b></li><li>• <i>The Regeneration Trilogy</i>, Pat Barker</li><li>• <i>Testament of Youth</i>, Vera Brittain</li><li>• <i>Birdsong</i>, Sebastian Faulks</li><li>• <i>Goodbye to all That</i>, Robert Graves</li><li>• <i>Oh! What a Lovely War!</i>, Joan Littlewood</li><li>• <i>The Silver Tassie</i>, Sean O'Casey</li><li>• <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, Erich Remarque</li><li>• <i>Memoirs of an Infantry Officer</i>, Siegfried Sassoon</li><li>• <b><i>Journey's End</i>, R C Sherriff</b></li><li>• <i>Wilfred Owen: A Biography</i>, Jon Stallworthy</li><li>• <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>, Virginia Woolf</li></ul>	

## **French**

### **Individual research**

Learning a language is not just about learning vocabulary and grammar, it is also about the whole cultural experience. Therefore, in order to give you a better cultural knowledge of your language and also develop your independent study skills, you will have to create a scrapbook over the summer holiday.

1. First research and choose 2 **authentic** documents or articles, films, documentaries, website, etc...for each of these AQA topics/subtopics in A Level. You will have to select a total of 14 documents on:
  - The changing nature of family
  - the cyber society
  - the notion of patrimoine in French culture
  - francophone Cinema
  - Francophone music
  - Charities in France
  - Integration in France
  
2. Then create a portfolio/scrapbook including:
  - The document itself or a photo/photocopy of the document.
  - The list of the vocabulary you had to search.
  - An in depth summary IN ENGLISH of the document, film, etc... and what you have learnt from it.

### **Study of one film at A Level**

As part of the new AQA specifications you will be studying at A Level the film "La Haine" by Mathieu Kassovitz. We strongly advice you to buy a copy of the movie and to watch it during the summer holidays.

### **Grammar**

You will find on the St. Michael's website a GRAMMAR self marking revision booklet. You are highly advised to work through it over the holidays as some of the grammar points treated will not be revised in Yr 12

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## **Geography**

The A level Geography course is an exciting, topical and contemporary subject. You will be following the Edexcel specification, which will include topics such as:

Y12	Y13
Tectonic processes and hazards	Energy Security and carbon cycle
Globalisation	Water cycle and scarcity issues
Regenerating places	Superpowers e.g. USA, Brazil, Russia, India and China
Coastal Issues (Development, erosion, landforms, risks faced by sea level rise and flooding)	Economic development of countries (Including trade and aid)
	Health, human rights and Intervention

It is essential for A level geographers to keep up to date with current happenings in the world. Much of the course is supported by detailed case studies of geographical events or situations and you will be expected to read a quality newspaper as part of your background reading  
e.g. The Times, the Guardian, The Independent.

The BBC website contains a wealth of information. As well as the BBC online news area, there are various radio shows, which you can download and listen to on your iPod. BBC Radio 4 hosts shows e.g. In our Time, Material World, Costing the Earth and From Our Own Correspondence. You do not need to listen to every show but check the listings beforehand to see if they contain any relevant information.

The following are a selection of magazines, which contain a vast array of relevant articles. All the magazines have websites, which you may be able to download articles from e.g. National Geographic, The Economist, Geographical Magazine, New Scientist.

Geography can be represented through TV programmes and travel writing. See below for a selection:

Travel writing/Photography suggestions	TV Programmes
Bill Bryson: Icons of England, African Diary, Neither Here Nor There, Notes from a Small Island	Documentaries: Planet Earth, Coast, Men of Rock, History of the British Isles
Michael Palin: Around the World in Eighty Days	Current affairs: Dispatches (Channel 4) and Panorama (BBC 1)
Yann Arthus-Bertrand: The New Earth from Above	

### **Summer task**

Read the following article: [Why the title of developing country no longer exists?](#) published in The Telegraph on 23rd May 2016. In no more than 500 words provide evidence for and against the points made in the article. Please bring your work to the first lesson in September.

## **Government and Politics**

### **Pre-Course Summer Work**

It is important that you keep up to date with the news and current affairs over the summer holidays. You should watch high quality programmes such as the Andrew Marr Show on BBC1 (Sundays 9.00am), Question Time (Thursdays 10.30pm), Newsnight on BBC 2 (Weeknights 10.30pm). Programmes such as Panorama and Dispatches also provide coverage of contemporary political affairs. You must also read a broadsheet newspaper daily.

### **Recommended Reading**

Dunleavy, Patrick et al. Developments in British Politics. Palgrave Macmillan, 2006

McNaughton, Neil. Edexcel Government and Politics for AS. Hodder Education 2008 (more related to the AS course than the others)

Jones, Bill et al. Politics UK. Pearson Education 2007 Heywood, Andrew. Essentials of UK Politics.

### **For something more readable and chatty in style, try:**

Marr, Andrew. A History of Modern Britain. Macmillan, 2007. (This book includes a review of politics in the UK since 1945)

Crick, Bernard. Democracy: A Very Short Introduction. OUP, 2002 Rawnsley, Andrew. The End of the Party. Hodder, 2010

### **Task**

For the first Government and Politics lesson in September you will need to produce a PowerPoint presentation on **one** of the following:

- (i) Analysis of the last general election
- (ii) One of the main political parties
- (iii) The electoral system
- (iv) A pressure group

## **History**

### **A Level History at St Michael's**

We study the AQA A Level History syllabus. Pupils study two topics in Y12. These are The British Empire 1857-1967 and the European Reformation 1500 - 1564. These topics are covered during Y12 and extend into Y13. In addition to this there is a coursework unit in Y13. The topic covered in the coursework assessment is France, Revolution and Reaction 1774 - 1871.

### **Preparatory Work**

The following titles are recommended reading prior to the start of the course. They are also useful references during the course, though they are not course textbooks as such. These are 'The British Empire, A Very Short Introduction' and 'The Reformation, A Very Short Introduction'. Optional titles are 'What is History?' by EH Carr and 'In Defence of History', by Richard Evans. These titles get you thinking about the nature of history, its value to you and society. The ideas contained in these titles can be applied to your studies but also make you look ahead towards the study of history at university.

**Paper 1 British Empire 1857-1967.** One exam, 2 hours 30 minutes. Students answer two essays and one critical study of interpretations of the British Empire in context.

**Paper 2 The Reformation in Europe 1500-1564.** One exam, 2 hours 30 minutes. Students answer two essay questions and one answer based on a critical evaluation of three extracts from historical documents.

**Coursework.** A single assignment (maximum 4,500 words) based on an independently researched enquiry from the reign of a period of roughly 100 years. Must show an understanding of change and continuity. Critical use of historical interpretations and documents must form part of the answer. The planned topic is France 1774-1871.

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## Italian

The Italian summer tasks are 3, intended to prepare you to bridge the gap from GCSE and to give you an insight into the different topics and work ethic required at A Level.

- 1) Learning a language is not just about learning vocabulary and grammar, it is also about the whole cultural experience. Therefore, in order to give you a better cultural knowledge of your language and also develop your independent study skills, you will have to create a portfolio of research over the summer holidays.

This can be based on the A level topics of study, which are:

- Immigration in Italy, with its pros and cons
- The North/South divide
- Fascism
- The cultural heritage (this includes festivals eg the Venice Carnival, or celebrations eg how Italians celebrate Easter, or sites of interest eg Pompei, etc)
- Music and media
- The evolution of the Italian family
- Education and the world of work.

However it does not have to be based on this, it can stem from your own interests in Italian language and culture; the aim of the portfolio is to demonstrate your independent research as well as to show your passion for the subject. It should be of a high standard and presentation (we often keep the portfolios and show them to parents on open days).

- 2) The second task is grammar focused, as a lot of the grammatical points learnt at GCSE will not be revised, you need to have a solid foundation of the basics. You need to buy the following grammar textbook "Via della grammatical for English speakers", by Mina Ricci, published by Edilingua, and complete the following units: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,17 and 21.

These can be self-marked as the textbook provides you with the answers at the end. It is an expectation that by the end of the 2 years you will complete the whole textbook at your own pace.

The final task is to familiarise yourself with the Italian works that will be studied during the A Level course: the novel *Io non ho paura* by Niccolò Ammaniti and the film *La vita è bella* by Roberto Benigni. You should purchase them and start to watch/read them over the summer. It is not an expectation that you finish the novel, but you should at least read the whole of chapter 1 and you could start reading/researching the themes and the author.

Please ensure you do not buy an adapted shorter version, and buy the full Italian original version (it is already quite short!) published by Einaudi.

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## **Mathematics**

In order to access the challenges of A Level Mathematics it is important to be prepared. We require you to have a number of basic key skills that you will have learnt during your GCSE course and will be called upon during your time in both Year 12 and Year 13 Mathematics.

To have the best possible start to your A-Level course you must have a secure knowledge of the following GCSE topics. Practice of these topics must be done by completing the Summer Homework that can be found on the school website (<https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/assets/Sixth-Form/Maths-Summer-HW-2020.pdf>) for the PDF document.

1. Law of indices
2. Straight Line graphs
3. Algebraic fractions
4. Manipulating algebraic expressions
5. Changing the subject of the formula
6. Linear equations, inequalities and simultaneous equations
7. Solving Quadratics Equations
8. Graphs –sketch and recognise common graphs
9. Transformations of graphs
10. Trigonometry
11. Vectors
12. Statistics
13. Probability

If you are not sure of any topic, use a GCSE textbook for reference or look at <http://www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/mepres/step-up/default.htm> or at [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk).

The questions must be completed and you should bring any concerns to your Maths' teachers in the first few weeks in September (maths clinics are held every Tuesday from 1:20pm until 1:55pm). Don't forget to mark your work using the answers provided at the back.

Note: there will be two Key Skills Tests on these topics in September.

## **Wider Reading**

Please see the following websites for Maths related articles:

<http://nrich.maths.org/forstudents> <http://plus.maths.org>



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## Physics

One of the first topics that we will be studying in Year 12 is motion. Some of the work below is designed to get you tuned into the motion topic. Enjoy exploring the links and have a go at the questions. DON'T WORRY IF YOU FIND SOME ASPECTS DIFFICULT, WE WILL SORT OUT ANY PROBLEMS NEXT TERM.

Look at the link below, are you familiar with most of the ideas on motion graphs? Look at The Basics of Linear Motion and Displacement and Velocity Time-Graphs, do you know the key terms?

### [S-Cool- A-level Physics](#)

The link below looks at motion time graphs. Try to ensure that you understand how the graphs are drawn from observing the motion of the body.

<https://www.physicsclassroom.com/Physics-Tutorial/1-D-Kinematics>

Work through Lesson 1 from the Kinematics Tutorial - Describing Motion in Words Have a go at answering the following problems

[Distance & Displacement Speed & Velocity Acceleration](#)

[Describing Motion in Diagrams](#)

More questions can be found on the School website.  
Have a go at these questions & mark the answers yourself.

### [Exam questions](#)

Our School text-book is **EDEXCEL A LEVEL - PHYSICS 1**  
**ISBN 978-1-4718-0752-7**  
**by Mike Benn & Graham George (Hodder Education Press)**

For further reading try the following books:  
**Thinking Physics** Is **Gedanken Physics** by **Lewis Carroll Epstein**

**The Flying Circus of Physics; WITH ANSWERS** by **Jearl Walker**

**A Level Physics** by **Roger Muncaster (Paperback 4th edition pub. 1st August 1993)** **This is a great reference book; try to buy a secondhand version of Muncaster**

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## **Psychology**

### **The course:**

A general definition of Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. The course is AQA specification A and comprises of four units. In year 12 the students will study units one and two and year 13 will study units three and four.

Unit one:	Memory	Child Psychology	Research Methods
Unit two	Stress	Abnormal Psychology	Social Influence

### **Recommended Reading:**

50 Psychology classics Tom Butler- Bowden Foundations of Psychology Nicky Hayes  
Oxford Companion to the Mind Oxford Press  
Psychology AS for AQA Cardwell, Clark & Meldrum  
Man Watching Desmond Morris  
People Watching Desmond Morris

Psychology Review Magazine

### **Task:**

- (1) To familiarise yourself with the various research methods used in Psychology simply sit in a coffee bar and 'people watch' (observe) for half an hour. Watch the people go by and write what you see taking particular notice at how people use body language to communicate messages to others.
- (2) Research the 'History of Psychology' looking at how Psychology has developed from introspection (Wilhelm Wundt) through to Psychoanalysis (Freud). Look at how Psychology has developed in the techniques employed from early research methods through to the methods used in modern society.

## **Religious Studies**

We follow the Edexcel Religious Studies A' Level syllabus. The course consists of three main components; Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and New Testament studies. Over the summer there are a number of things that you should do to prepare yourself for starting the course in September.

**Pre-course reading:** There is lots of choose from when preparing to study Philosophy and Ethics. Choose one or two of the books below to begin building up an understanding and awareness of some of the key ideas and scholars that you will be learning about. You should aim to buy at least one of these to help with essay work in September and onwards (the starred books will be most useful for this).

- *'A Little History of Philosophy'* by Nigel Warburton \*
- *'Sophie's World'* by Jostein Gaarder
- *'God Matters'* by Peter Vardy and Charlotte Vardy \*
- *'Ethics Matters'* by Peter Vardy and Charlotte Vardy \*
- *'Justice'* by Michael Sandel
- *'Simply Jesus'* by Tom Wright

**Online activities:** Have a look at the popular online series of lectures by Harvard political philosopher Michael Sandel. The series is called '**Justice**' and it explores key questions and issues in moral philosophy. Choose some that interest you and watch his lectures. Episode 1 explores the well known 'trolley problem' that you may have heard of and which you will encounter in your first few ethics lessons.

Try some philosophy experiments on <https://www.philosophyexperiments.com/>. These take you through some common problems and questions in philosophy. They each pose different scenarios and require you to submit your responses to them. The first one on the list 'Should you kill the fat man?' links to the trolley problem discussed by Michael Sandel in his first lecture.

**Keep up to date with the news.** Many of the issues that we discuss link to current issues and debates, so keep an eye on the news as this will give you a wealth of examples that you can use. For example, issues related to the environment, sex and relationships, medical ethics, war, as well as to philosophical questions such as the problem of evil and suffering in the world.

# A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2021

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## **Spanish**

Learning a language is not just about learning vocabulary and grammar, it is also about the whole cultural experience! Therefore, in order to give you a better cultural knowledge of your languages and also develop your independent study skills, you will have to create a scrapbook over the summer holiday.

You will have to show your scrapbook to your classmates and your teacher in the 1st lesson back in September.

### **Explore and investigate!**

You need to be curious, so include newspaper or magazine cuttings on anything you find which concerns the language and countries you are going to study. Your GCSE topics were mainly limited to personal matters and experiences. The next step is to try to develop a broader knowledge of the target language countries' society, government, history, fashion, art, literature, music, lifestyle and customs.

The Internet makes the world a very small place and enables you to gain an excellent insight into other cultures and access information quickly and easily.

### **Read!**

Include articles (printed or photocopied, then annotated by you) from Spanish and Latin American newspapers and magazines – you can find some in local libraries, newsagents or online. You can also include information from guide books to gain an understanding of topics such as the geography, main cities and towns, culture and food.

### **Listen!**

Tune in to radio broadcasts and music from the country whose language you are studying. This will not only sharpen up your listening skills, but you will hear names of people who are important. Remember to make notes in your scrapbook, so we can check the listening activities you undertook.

### **Watch!**

**It is compulsory for you to buy a copy of Guillermo Del Toro's "El laberinto del fauno" and watch it before you start YR 12.**

You should also watch television programmes and films in the target language. The BBC website has links to online programmes in a wide range of languages. Again remember we must see some kind of proof in your scrapbook.